

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAHORE 00384 171224Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 TRSE-00
EA-07 IO-13 MCT-01 AID-05 DHA-02 OC-06 EB-08
OMB-01 A-01 OPR-02 /096 W
-----171229Z 115497 /14

O 171005Z APR 77
FM AMCONSUL LAHORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1227
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL KARACHI NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJECT: CRISIS IN PUNJAB: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LAHORE 0383

1. SUMMARY: DEFECTION FROM PPP CONTINUE AS FIVE MORE
MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY RESIGN THEIR SEATS. GROUP OF
SEVEN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS FROM PUNJAB CALL FOR FRESH
ELECTIONS. SHAUKAT HAYAT EXPELLED FROM PARTY. VENUE FOR
BHUTTO'S PRESS CONFERENCE SHIFTED TO LAHORE WHERE IT IS NOW
SCHEDULED TO BE HELD AT 1700 HOURS LOCAL TIME (APRIL 17).
END SUMMARY.

2. FIVE PPP MEMBERS OF PUNJAB PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY ANNOUNCED
APRIL 16 THAT THEY HAD RESIGNED THEIR SEATS, BRINGING TOTAL
NUMBER SO FAR TO EIGHT. NUSRULLAH DRISHIK, FORMER MINISTER
OF IRRIGATION AND POWER IN PREVIOUS PUNJAB GOVERNMENT, IS
MOST PROMINENT OF GROUP. OTHERS INCLUDE ZULFIQAR ALI KHOSA,
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PAGE 02 LAHORE 00384 171224Z

CHAUDHRY EID MOHAMMED, DEWAN GHULAM ABBAS AND ASLAM BHATTI.
ALL ARE CONSERVATIVE BUSINESS OR LANDED ELEMENTS. FRISHIK
AND KHOSA COME FROM DERA GHAZI KHAN WHERE POLICE VIOLENCE
HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY SHARP IN RECENT DAYS. THESE TWO, AND
AS WELL, WERE PROBABLY UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM THEIR CON-
STITUENTS TO RESIGN IN EFFORT TO PRESSURE BHUTTO AND HALT
KILLINGS. FOR CHAUDHRY EID MOHAMMED RESIGNATION CAME TOO

LATE. PNA MOBS BURNED DOWN HIS CINEMA HOUSE IN LAHORE APRIL 15 (REFTEL).

3. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS FROM PUNJAB RELEASED A LETTER ADDRESSED TO BHUTTO APRIL 16 CALLING FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION, PROMULGATION OF ISLAMIC LAW AND FRESH ELECTIONS TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY UNDER A MUTUALLY AGREED BODY. THREE OF THEM, SHAUKAT HAYAT, ANWAR NOON AND MIAN SALAHUDDIN, MET WITH BHUTTO AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE IN LAHORE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON TO PRESS THEIR DEMANDS, WHICH PM REFUSED. LATER THAT NIGHT IT WAS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED THAT SHAUKAT HAYAT HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM THE PARTY. OTHERS INVOLVED ARE ZAKPG QURESHI, AMIR ABDULLAH KHAN ROKHRI, KARAM BUX AWAN AND BALAKH SHER MAZARI, BROTHER OF NDP LEADER SHER DAZ MAZARI. AS WITH PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS, THIS IS A CONSERVATIVE GROUP, ALMOST ALL OF WHOM FORMER MEMBERS OF AYUB KHAN'S CONVENTION MUSLIM LEAGUE. ONE, MIAN SALAHUDDIN, IS THE FIRST MNA TO "DEFECT" FROM LAHORE. IF BHUTTO DOES NOT ACCEPT THEIR DEMANDS AT TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE, THEY ARE EXPECTED TO RESIGN. ALTERNATELY, THEY MAY BE EXPELLED FROM THE PARTY LIKE SHAUKAT HAYAT.

4. NATION ANXIOUSLY AWAITS PRESS CONFERENCE. INFORMED OBSERVERS BELIEVE BHUTTO WILL OFFER TO HOLD NEW PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS, LIFT EMERGENCY AND FREE POLITICAL PRISONERS TO SETTLE CRISIS. OPPOSITION IS EXPECTED TO REFUSE AND HOLD FIRM TO ITS DEMAND THAT HE RESIGN AND FRESH ELECTIONS TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BE HELD, THUS INVITING FURTHER CONFRONTATION. GAMON

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Sent Date: 17-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Remarks:
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